

If I was an elected official, I would make my community a great place to live. I would make sure to always listen to the people and to do what is the right and honest for the people.

To start, I would make sure the community is safe for the people. For example, I would want the town to be dry. If there were no alcohol in the community, then people would not come here to buy it, and there would be fewer drunk drivers. Another way I would make sure everyone is safe is to have very strict laws on the road. For example, if you were caught without a seatbelt, you would have a \$500.00 fine. If you were caught over the speed limit, there would be a \$600.00 fine. These ideas would improve the safety of our citizens.

Another way I would make my community a better place to live is to improve its appearance. I know from experience that when you are surrounded by unpleasant things, you feel unpleasant. My idea is to have a gardening club that takes on certain areas of the town. They would plant trees and flowers to make the community more attractive. We would also have a community service group of volunteer pupils for the surrounding area. They would pick up litter on the highways and other major public areas. People who were caught vandalizing would be required to serve in the community service group and they would have to clean or fix anything they had broken or damaged.

Next, I would have great community activities for children and seniors. We would have a special health class like aerobics for seniors. We would have clubs in every school that would promote drug-free fun. These clubs would go on trips like skiing or amusement or water parks. This would show the kids that you can have fun without getting high. Hopefully, this would also decrease the use of drugs in our community.

In conclusion, I think I could make my community a great place to live. These are only some of my many ideas, but I have many more. I would like to be a politician when I grow up, so these are some ideas that may be put into action some day. Even though, every politician would like their community to be the very best it can be, it will never be perfect. Hopefully, with these measures, our community can take one more stride toward perfection.

Lily Walsh

1st place winner

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Wilton, Connecticut- zip code 06897; population 17,633. This information is what a person might find on the Wilton town website. Except this information is numbers, not who or what Wilton is. Wilton is Scoops, the fantastic ice cream parlor; the movie theater near Starbucks; or any one of the great schools here. Wilton is a spectacular place to live, but if I were an elected official things would have to change. The biggest problem is the environmental habits here. When I was in Canada this summer I was amazed to find that they had compost bins where people put their extra food so that it would not be wasted. The recycling in Wilton just plain stinks; we recycle hardly anything. Most paper, bottles, and other recyclables go straight into the garbage instead of the recycle bin! Plus, the only way to get from one place to another is by car. There are hardly any sidewalks and no bike passes at all. Both of these alternative modes of transportation are almost impossible to do Wilton. Bikes do not release harmful chemicals into the world, but cars do. The world needs saving from humans and the only way to rescue it is for every person to drop whatever bad habits they have and help. Everyone needs to help save our planet because we only get one. Let's not waste it because we are too lazy to get up off the couch and do something useful. Wilton is my home, but that does not mean it is perfect, because it is not. Even if I never go into politics, I hope that someone will read these words that I have written and listen to what they have to say, because this is what it would take to bring Wilton, Connecticut a step closer to perfection.

Katey Forsyth

Runner-Up

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